

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS

WILD LUPINE



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Lupinus perennis

BASIC ID

This sun-loving perennial grows best in open savannas or prairies. In Wisconsin, it germinates in mid-April. Its spikes of blue flowers bloom in late May, and its seed pods mature to brown or black before bursting in late June or early July.

IMPORTANCE

The caterpillar of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly relies exclusively on lupine leaves for food.

SEED PLANTING

- Collect mature seed pods before they burst
- Dry pods under a screen to extract seeds
- Plant seeds in late fall before snow cover for best growth
- Select sunny, weed-free areas with sandy, well-drained soil

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invertebrates/karner.htm

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